

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 19, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Joe Vitale, Sara Carpenter, Ed Cohen, Diane Ripple, Mary Hennis, Missy Kueht-Becker, Jim Pearson, Judy Hickey, Lisa McLean, Caitlen Daniels, Nichole Hunkins, Greg Jonas, Monica Bain, Don Harris, Raquel Mehring, Maura McMahon

**STAFF PRESENT:** Antwayne Robertson, Jesus Mireles, Peter Slesar

Jim Pearson called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Don Harris made a motion, seconded by Joe Vitale to approve the minutes of January 15, 2009. The motion was voted on and carried.

**BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

Joe Vitale provided a written report. He mentioned that action was taken on Senate bill #3 regarding health insurance coverage to cover the treatment of Autism, Asperger's syndrome, and pervasive developmental disorders not otherwise specified for all insured persons. Joe will provide an update at our next meeting. He also congratulated Jesús Mireles on receiving the PPAC 2009 Child Advocate award on February 7, 2009.

**ISSUE SEGMENT – THE WOMEN'S CENTER**

Diane Ripple and Mary Hennis of the Women's Center presented on the various programs and services provided by the center. According to Ms. Hennis, Domestic Violence is a combination of a number of power and control tactics that is a common denominator in their resident's relationships.

The Women's Center was founded in 1977. It's mission to provide safety and support to women and their families, while facilitating their development. All services are free and free on-site child care is provided. They are proud to continue this tradition as it helps eliminate the barrier of tracking women and health services. What makes the Women's Center different as compared to similar services across the nation is there are only a few dual agencies that provide counseling, transitional living, legal advocacy, and work closely with Child Protective Services, and now the CARE Center team. Additional community resources are available to assist clients in building their personal and emotional support systems, and referrals are made to assist clients in developing healthier relationships.

Immediate crisis intervention is the deep end of services for individuals experiencing a crisis, when women and children are fleeing from an abusive relationship. Men can also be seen as victims of domestic violence and have service needs. Since the expansion of the shelter from 20 to 32 beds, the Women's Center has seen more families due to the loss of custody of children, and economic related issues. As a result, more families are staying longer at the shelter.

Date violence has increased. It is very complex with varying levels of abuse and control. A group has been formed as a result of date violence to help individuals understand what a healthy relationship is, and the Women's Center has also worked with the parents to help them understand how this can happen to their child. A Community Educator from the Women's Center goes into the schools and works with children on protective behaviors and talks about date violence. Additional programs available to assist individuals include transitional living and an employment program. Other comprehensive services include parenting education classes, child abuse prevention programs, and parent support groups.

## **REVIEW NEEDS LIST**

Jim Pearson reported that the Needs List Subcommittee met and thanked all who participated in the discussion and draft of the 2010 Needs List. Jim read the draft to all and opened up for discussion and comments. For the March meeting, an amended draft of the Needs List will be submitted for approval and will begin reviewing the PowerPoint presentation.

## **CHILDREN'S SPECIAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Jesus Mireles provided an update. The committee was formerly the Birth to Three Family Support Subcommittee and the Family Support Advisory Committee under the DDAC (Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee that is no longer in existence). Counties are mandated to use the Program Participation System (PPS) to enroll all eligible families in the Birth to Three Program. This computer system tracks B-3 families and will be used to report State and Federal outcomes. This is a big transition and required a lot of Lutheran Social Services staff time. We have also formed a great partnership with UCP so families can get off their waiting list for respite care.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mental Health Association 211 First Call for Help had a 30% increase in call volume beginning in January 2009.

Bayshore Towne Center mall will have a charity program – plug meters with change for charity. Six organizations have been selected and they will receive change for charity. In May/June, the Women's Center has been selected to receive this benefit.

In April, a statewide effort will begin for a program entitled "Parents who Host Lose the Most".

The Health and Human Services Public Hearing is set for Thursday, April 23, 2009 at the Expo Center.

The Waukesha County Child Welfare State Review is scheduled for the week of August 24, 2009 were twelve random cases will be selected for review and stakeholders and providers will be invited to participate.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room of the Human Services Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Don Harris made a motion, seconded by Joe Vitale to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)